AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/626,080
Attorney Docket No. Q59998

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (currently amended): A method for managing the connection of a plurality of devices which are point-to-point connected by a digital interface, the method comprising:

(a) a second device, which establishes a point-to-point connection between an arbitrary first device and another device, receiving a connection release request command requesting the second device to break the point-to-point connection from the first device;

(b) the second device breaking the point-to-point connection in response to the connection release request command, __wherein the point-to-point connection is defined by an output plug of the first device, an input plug of the another device and a channel between the output plug and the input plug.__

2.   (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 1,~~ __A method for managing the connection of a plurality of devices which are point-to-point connected by a digital interface, the method comprising:__

__(a) a second device, which establishes a point-to-point connection between an arbitrary first device and another device, receiving a connection release request command requesting the second device to break the point-to-point connection from the first device;__

(b) the second device breaking the point-to-point connection in response to the

connection release request command,

wherein prior to (b), ~~further comprising~~ (p-b-1) the second device analyzing the

connection release request command to determine whether the point-to-point connection was

previously established by itself, and

wherein (b) comprises (b') if it is determined that the point-to-point connection is a point-

to-point connection previously established by the second device, the second device breaking the

point-to-point connection.

3.   (original): The method of claim 2, wherein (b') comprises:

(b'-1) if it is determined that the point-to-point connection is a point-to-point connection

previously established by the second device, a user determining whether to break the point-to-

point connection by the second device;

(b'-2) if the user determines to break the connection in (b'-1), the second device breaking

the point-to-point connection established between the first device and another device; and

(b'-3) if the user determines not to break the connection in (b'-1), the second device

maintaining the point-to-point connection established between the first device and another

device.

4.   (original): The method of claim 3, wherein (b'-1) comprises:

(b'-1-1) if the point-to-point connection is determined to be a point-to-point connection previously established by the second device, the second device indicating whether to break the point-to-point connection on a predetermined display device; and

(b'-1-2) the second device receiving a determination on whether to break the point-to-point connection by the second device from the user.

5.   (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method for managing the connection of a plurality of devices which are point-to-point connected by a digital interface, the method comprising:

(a) a second device, which establishes a point-to-point connection between an arbitrary first device and another device, receiving a connection release request command requesting the second device to break the point-to-point connection from the first device;

(b) the second device breaking the point-to-point connection in response to the connection release request command,

wherein the connection release request command includes a plug type field which indicates the plug type of the first device in the presently established point-to-point connection, and a plug identification field which indicates the plug identifier of the first device as an operand.

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6.   (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method for managing the connection of a plurality of devices which are point-to-point connected by a digital interface, the method comprising:

(a) a second device, which establishes a point-to-point connection between an arbitrary first device and another device, receiving a connection release request command requesting the second device to break the point-to-point connection from the first device;

(b) the second device breaking the point-to-point connection in response to the connection release request command,

wherein the connection release request command is an audio-video control command defined within an audio-video control command transaction set.

7.   (currently amended): The method as in any one of ~~claims 1-6~~ claims 2-6, wherein the digital interface conforms to the IEEE 1394 standard.

8.   (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said first device sends said connection release request command to said second device.

9.   (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said another device sends said connection release request command to said second device.

10.   (new:) The method of claim 1, wherein the output plug and the input plug are

defined according to the IEC 61883 standard.

11.   (new): A method for managing the connection of a plurality of devices which are

point-to-point connected by a digital interface, the method comprising:

(a) a second device, which establishes a point-to-point connection between an arbitrary

first device and another device, receiving a connection release request command requesting the

second device to break the point-to-point connection from the first device; and

(b) the second device breaking the point-to-point connection in response to the

connection release request command,

wherein the digital interface conforms to the IEEE 1394 standard.